(b) if so, what is the number of such institutions;

(c) whether it is a fact that India ranks 115 in terms of investment in education as a percentage of G.N.P., and

(d) what are the plans to raise investment on primary, secondary, backward classes and women education ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) and (b) University Grants Commission provides financial assistance to all eligible universities and colleges for recruitment of staff, purchase of books, journals and equipment, construction of buildings and hostels. The Commission also provides financial assistance under various Schemes. According to the information furnished by UGC, at present, 96 eligible Universities and about 4100 eligible colleges are receiving financial assistance from the Commission for general development as well as under specific Schemes.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The 8th Plan has given priority to universalistion of Elementary Education. The outlay for Elementary Education during 8th Plan has been increased to Rs. 8936.46 crores from 7th Plan expenditure of Rs. 2849.41 crores. For Secondary Education, outlay during 8th plan has been fixed at Rs. 3497.79 crores as compared to Rs. 1831.51 crores expenditure during seventh plan. Socio-Economic Empowerment of Women by providing them education is one of the strategies of development of education in the 8th Plan. Mobilising Women's Groups with involvement of local community to create favourable environment for Women Education is being implemented under the scheme of Mahila Samakhaya with external funding. The expenditure under the 7th plan for the scheme of Mahila Samakhaya was Rs. 3.04 crores against which the 8th Plan outlay has been fixed at Rs. 51.00 crores.

Opening of Regional Offices of U.G.C.

1908. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA :
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY :
SHRIMATI MIRA DAS :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 636 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 28th February, 1992 and state :

(a) whether Government have since taken any decision to open Zonal Offices of University Grants Commission;

(b) if so, what are the criteria to start such zonal offices;

(c) whether any State Government has proposed to open such a zonal office; and

(d) if so, whether any decision has been taken in this regard; and if not, by when it is likely to be taken ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (d) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission, the Commission has taken a decision, in principle, to set up its regional offices in different parts of the country. Suggestions have been received from some State Governments as well as various other quarters for setting up of such regional offices at certain places in these States. No decision in regard to the location or the time frame for setting up of these offices has been taken due to the present constraint of financial resources.

Reports of Mass Cheating in Delhi University

1909. SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI :
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been reports of mass cheating in the various examinations conducted by Delhi University this year;